

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Vaughn Belcher on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Vaughn Belcher is one such estimable individual, who has demonstrated the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Alcoa; and

WHEREAS, having distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order throughout his exemplary tenure in office, Mr. Belcher took a much-deserved retirement from public service in November 2022; and

WHEREAS, originally appointed to the Board of Commissioners in July 2001, Mr. Belcher won election to the Board of Commissioners in June 2003 and rendered sterling service as chair of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center Board, chair of the Cable Board, and member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the Board of Commissioners, he played a vital role in the construction of a number of projects, including Alcoa High School, Alcoa Middle School, Alcoa Intermediate School, Alcoa High School Competition Gymnasium, Springbrook Pool Bathhouse, 16MGD Water Filtration Plant, and the Public Works and Electric Department Consolidated Service Center; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with Maryville and Blount County governments, Mr. Belcher and the Board of Commissioners led the City of Alcoa's efforts in the construction of a new public library and Everett Senior Center and worked with Maryville and Maryville College in the construction of Clayton Center for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, he played a key role in the recruitment of the Amazon Fulfillment Center, in conjunction with Blount County, and Smith & Wesson, in another joint effort with Blount County and Maryville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Belcher oversaw the completion of Phase I of the Alcoa Parkway-Hunt Road Interchange and worked tirelessly to aid in the development of Pellissippi Place Technology Park and the redevelopment of Springbrook Farm City Center; and

WHEREAS, a native of Monroe County and graduate of Madisonville High School, Vaughn Belcher received his Associate of Arts degree from Hiwassee College and his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Tennessee; he also completed forty-five hours of work above his master's degree; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished professional, Mr. Belcher enjoyed an illustrious career as an educator with the City of Alcoa school system, a career he began in 1964 as a sixth-grade teacher at Springbrook Elementary School; he also coached the girls' basketball team and the golf team at Alcoa High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Vaughn Belcher was named principal of Bassel Elementary School and was appointed principal of Alcoa Junior High School in 1971; in 1979, Alcoa Junior High School was renamed Alcoa Middle School, where Mr. Belcher remained at the helm until his retirement in June 1994; and

WHEREAS, respected by his peers across the State of Tennessee, Mr. Belcher was an exemplary member of the Tennessee Principals Association for twenty-six years and served on the first Board of Directors for the TSSAA Middle School Association; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement as an educator, he was employed by Clayton Homes for eight years and worked part time for Green Meadow Country Club for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of Alcoa First Baptist Church, Vaughn Belcher is most thankful for the love and support of his wife, Shelton, and their two children and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Vaughn Belcher served his constituents well during his illustrious tenure on the Board of Commissioners for the City of Alcoa, carrying out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Belcher has proven himself to be wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his many years of honorable and astute service to the citizens of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Vaughn Belcher our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applauding his years of dedicated public service as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Alcoa and wishing him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.